



**STENNIS SPACE CENTER**

## **Visiting Investigator Program Fact Sheet**

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NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi offers a Visiting Investigator Program (VIP) to provide U.S. end-user companies with low-cost opportunities to examine the use of Earth observation technologies. By providing access to NASA facilities, data and expertise, this program reduces the cost of investigating remote sensing and technology applications.

In today's business arena, companies need timely, accurate and reliable information. Geographic market studies, natural resource exploration, environmental monitoring, utility management and sitings for new plants are traditionally labor intensive and time consuming.

Through the use of NASA remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies, businesses have new perspectives and sources of global information. GIS is a computerized way to take an in-depth look at a specific area on Earth. Combining data from sensor systems with advanced GIS software reveals information previously unavailable at any cost. Equipped with these space-age tools, U.S. industry is turning the challenges of global competition into opportunities for success.

The VIP offers a variety of remote sensing and GIS development opportunities. Companies participating in the VIP at Stennis Space Center include:

- Utility companies engaged in long-range planning and development of more efficient tools for facilities management;
- Environmental firms developing new ways to gather and process information for regulatory compliance;
- Natural resources exploration companies seeking better and more cost-effective ways to locate oil and mineral reserves; and
- Municipalities, urban planning consultants and civil engineering firms assessing growth patterns and the need for new roads, bridges and industrial sites.

Investigating these technologies is costly for U.S. end-user companies with limited budgets and day-to-day operations to manage. The Visiting Investigator Program is a lowrisk opportunity for investigating and evaluating a broad range of hardware and software. The VIP reduces the cost of investigation by providing the use of NASA facilities, data and expertise.

Stennis Space Center chooses Visiting Investigator Program participants by application. Application requires the submission of a brief proposal describing the nature and goals of the proposed research. All proposals must present a reasonable plan for possible commercial applications of proven results.

Once selected, Stennis Space Center provides the NASA know-how, the hardware and the software, satellite images, and use of aircraft sensors for remote sensing projects. The VIP functions under a non proprietary agreement, which lasts from three to six months. Participating in the Visiting Investigator Program can lead to other commercial development opportunities with NASA.

**For more information about the Visiting Investigator Program, contact the Stennis Space Center Commercial Remote Sensing Program Office at (601) 688-2042.**

**NASA**

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